

dividing the data portion into columns or rows.

~~A8~~ 10. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein a sequence of the vertical columns is freely selected and stored by a user.

~~11. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein a sequence of the horizontal rows is freely selected and stored by a user.~~

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-5 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP98/07660. This Preliminary Amendment further cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-4 in the annex to the IPER, and adds new claims 5-11. The new claims, inter alia, conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

The above amendments to the title, the specification and the abstract are, inter alia, to conform the title, the specification and the abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and to correct informalities. The amendments to the title, the specification and the abstract do not add new matter.

The underlying PCT application includes an International Search Report dated May 7, 1999. An English translation of the search report is included herewith.

The underlying PCT application includes an IPER dated March 7, 2000. An English translation of the IPER and the annex thereto is included herewith.

[illegible]

KENYON & KENYON

5/31/00

KENYON & KENYON
A. C. C. C. ✓

Richard L. Mayer

Reg. No. 22,490

One Broadway

New York, N.Y. 10004

(212) 425-7200 (telephone)

(212) 425-5288 (facsimile)

7